

Taking the Plunge!

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Hebrews 11:7 (KJV) 



Do you know someone that has been struggling for many years? Someone who claims to be a Christian but has never fully laid down their old life or grown in Christ? I was praying for such a person recently when the Holy Spirit brought several things to my mind that I believe will help us all to gain more spiritual understanding. God used an incident from my childhood and one from the Bible to powerfully illustrate this concept.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 11:8 (KJV) 

One summer when I was around nine my parents sent me to day camp. Among the fun things we did was swim. I remember the fellow that taught us how to swim that summer, we knew him as “Tank”. Over several days Tank and his assistants showed us all the finer points of swimming. I remember we held onto the edge of the pool and they taught us how to kick our legs properly. They held us by the mid section and showed us how to use our arms to stroke properly. They answered all of our questions; they checked each of us to make sure we were using proper form. Then the final lesson came.

I remember us all sitting with our feet dangling in the pool. I remember Tank pacing back and forth talking to us. He said that he had taught us everything we needed to know, and that the time had come for us to swim on our own. I remember being so afraid of the deep end of the pool, afraid I would drown. All the kids just froze; they all felt the same as me. Tank was asking us “Won’t someone just try? I am a lifeguard; I promise that nothing will happen to you.” but still not a stir from us. Tank seemed chagrined. “Look,” he said “The first person who jumps in the water I will buy them an ice at the pizza place!” After a few tense moments I decided that I wanted that Italian ice for myself. I remember looking at Tank and trusting that he would keep his word and rescue me if I had gone under. I jumped in feet first and doggie paddled all over that pool! At first I was terrified but I kept eye contact with Tank who was watching me carefully. Slowly the fear subsided because I wasn’t sinking but swimming! Tank didn’t buy me an ice that day but I hounded him till he did!

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Matthew 14:28-29 (KJV) 

So you may be saying to yourself that this is a nice story but what does it have to do with me? Of course it is obviously a simple object lesson in faith, but there is a little more to it. After the Holy Spirit reminded me of this

childhood incident He then brought to my mind the story of someone else who had to conquer their fear and get out on the water by the name of Peter. He had been with Christ as a disciple learning everything he needed to know about faith but then the time came for him to step out of that boat in faith.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV) 

I ask you now, how many multitudes are out there who claim to be Christians but have never stepped out of the boat? Stepping out of the boat means letting go of your old life; it means giving up your old friends, habits. It doesn't mean you don't struggle with these things, but that you do! How many out there are spiritually dipping their toe in the water occasionally? How many have been hanging on to the edge of the pool for a lifetime?

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9 (KJV) 

Tank and the staff at Rhinelander Day Camp showed me everything I needed to know, but it wasn't until I put all that knowledge to use and jumped into that pool that I became a swimmer. This is about nothing less than our very salvation folks, because salvation is only obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. After all is said and done whether you claim to be a Christian or not if you do not have faith in Jesus Christ you are not saved. You can know the Bible inside and out, sing every song in church or do every good thing your mind can contemplate. But until you jump in that pool and take the plunge, until you step out of that boat in faith you are not a true follower of Christ.

